

State of

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**Drunk Driving
Fatalities in America**

2012



FOUNDATION FOR
ADVANCING ALCOHOL
RESPONSIBILITY



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Overview

The leader in the fight to eliminate drunk driving and underage drinking, the Foundation for Advancing Alcohol Responsibility (FAAR) is a national, independent, not-for-profit organization funded by the nation's leading distillers founded in 1991. Building upon a longstanding history of corporate social responsibility and the philosophy that collective actions have a greater impact than individual efforts, our funders Bacardi U.S.A., Inc.; Beam, Inc.; Brown-Forman; Constellation Brands, Inc.; DIAGEO; Hood River Distillers, Inc.; and Pernod Ricard USA, have demonstrated their support of FAAR's mission over the past 23 years by investing in the development and implementation of innovative programs, public awareness campaigns, and research. An independent Advisory Board of distinguished leaders in business, government, education, medicine, and other relevant disciplines assists us in these efforts.

Since FAAR's inception, drunk driving fatalities and underage drinking have reached record low levels. Alcohol-impaired driving fatalities have decreased 35% since 1991, while total driving fatalities have declined 19%. Among our nation's youth, the decline in drunk driving fatalities among those under 21 has been even more significant, decreasing 60% since FAAR's formation. Underage drinking has decreased 39% among students in eighth, tenth, and twelfth grade since 1991. While we cannot claim sole responsibility for these reductions, the Foundation for Advancing Alcohol Responsibility has played a significant role in helping to reach these historic low levels of drunk driving fatalities and underage consumption.

Despite this progress we still have more work to do, and our mission to lead the fight against drunk driving and underage drinking is stronger than ever. More than fifteen years ago, FAAR took a leadership role in identifying a group of drunk driving offenders who were disproportionately responsible for drunk driving fatalities, known as hardcore drunk drivers. These hardcore drunk drivers continue to wreak havoc on our nation's roads – the average BAC among drunk drivers in fatal crashes is .19, more than double the legal limit. In 2012, 73% of drunk driving fatalities, where there is a known alcohol-test result for the driver, involved a high BAC driver – a trend that has remained relatively unchanged for more than a decade. Furthermore, these high BAC drivers were seven times more likely than a non-drinking driver to have a prior driving while intoxicated (DWI) conviction in the past three years. FAAR believes strong laws enabling swift identification, certain punishment and effective treatment are critical elements alongside data-driven and innovative programs and policies which are necessary to eliminate drunk driving.

The Foundation for Advancing Alcohol Responsibility has transformed countless lives through programs that have contributed to historic lows in drunk driving and underage drinking. FAAR remains committed to working alongside all sectors of the community in this important fight to advance policies and programs to help eliminate drunk driving and underage drinking. Therefore, I trust this information will serve as a useful resource to those interested in this effort. To find out more about FAAR's programs and initiatives to fight drunk driving and underage drinking, or for copies of our latest research, please visit our website at responsibility.org and follow us on social media.



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Terminology

ALCOHOL-IMPAIRED FATALITY

Drivers in all 50 states and D.C. are considered to be alcohol-impaired if their blood alcohol concentration (BAC) is .08 grams per deciliter (g/dL) or higher. Any fatality occurring in a crash involving at least one driver, or motorcycle operator, with a BAC of .08 or higher is considered to be an alcohol-impaired driving fatality. The term alcohol-impaired does not indicate that a crash or a fatality was the result of alcohol impairment. In producing national and state alcohol-impaired statistics, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) estimates the extent of alcohol involvement when alcohol test results are unknown.

ALCOHOL-INVOLVED FATALITY

Alcohol-involved fatalities are those where at least one driver, or motorcycle operator, has a positive BAC of .01 or higher. In producing national and state alcohol-involved statistics, NHTSA estimates the extent of alcohol involvement when alcohol test results are unknown.

BLOOD ALCOHOL CONCENTRATION (BAC)

BAC is measured in grams of alcohol per 100 milliliters of blood. A BAC of .01 indicates .01 grams of alcohol per 100 milliliters of blood. As of July 2004, all 50 states and the District of Columbia have passed legislation establishing a driver with a BAC of .08 to be legally intoxicated. Additionally, 48 states and the District of Columbia have laws that increase penalties for those convicted of driving with elevated or "high" BAC levels.

HARDCORE DRUNK DRIVERS

Hardcore drunk drivers, those who drive with a high BAC of .15 or above, do so repeatedly, as demonstrated by having more than one drunk driving arrest, and are highly resistant to changing their behavior despite previous sanctions, treatment, or education efforts.

RATES PER 100,000 POPULATION

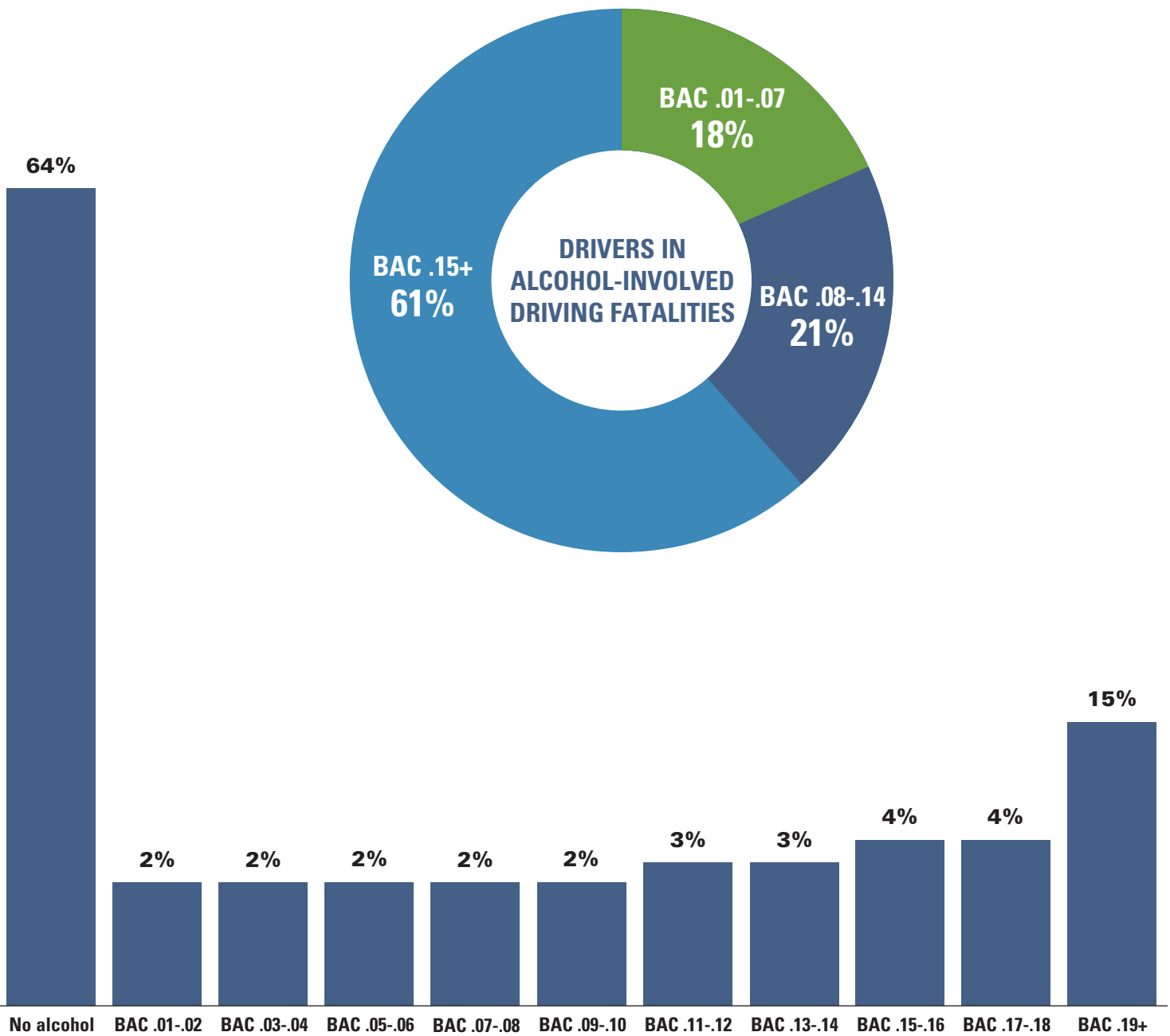
The rate of alcohol-impaired fatalities per 100,000 population is the number of alcohol-impaired fatalities for every 100,000 persons in the population being measured. For example, an alcohol-impaired fatality rate of 3.3 per 100,000 population nationally means that for every 100,000 people in the nation, there were approximately three alcohol-impaired fatalities.

REPEAT OFFENDERS

The NHTSA/FARS data records prior driving records (convictions only, not violations) for driving while intoxicated events occurring within three years of the date of the crash. The same driver can have one or more of these convictions during this three year period. Drivers who have a prior conviction in this three year period are reported as repeat offenders.

In 2012, drunk driving accounted for 31% of all traffic fatalities. Six out of ten alcohol-involved fatal crashes involved high BAC drivers.

PERCENT OF 2012 DRIVING FATALITIES BY BAC TEST RESULT

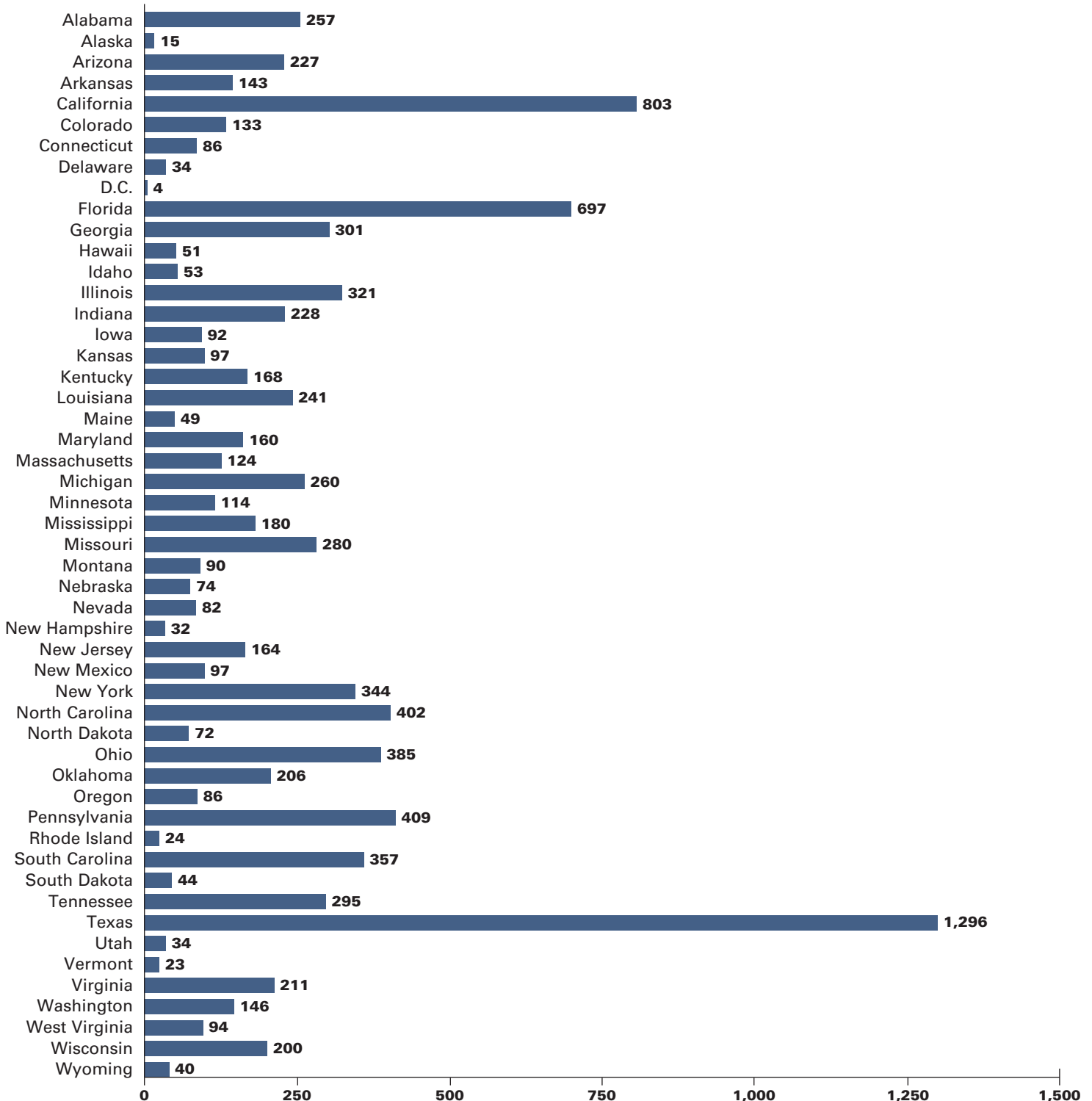


Known Alcohol Test Results of Drivers Involved in Fatal Traffic Crashes

*Data Source: NHTSA, FARS ARF of Drivers with Known BAC, 12/13
Total may not equal the sum of categories due to rounding.*

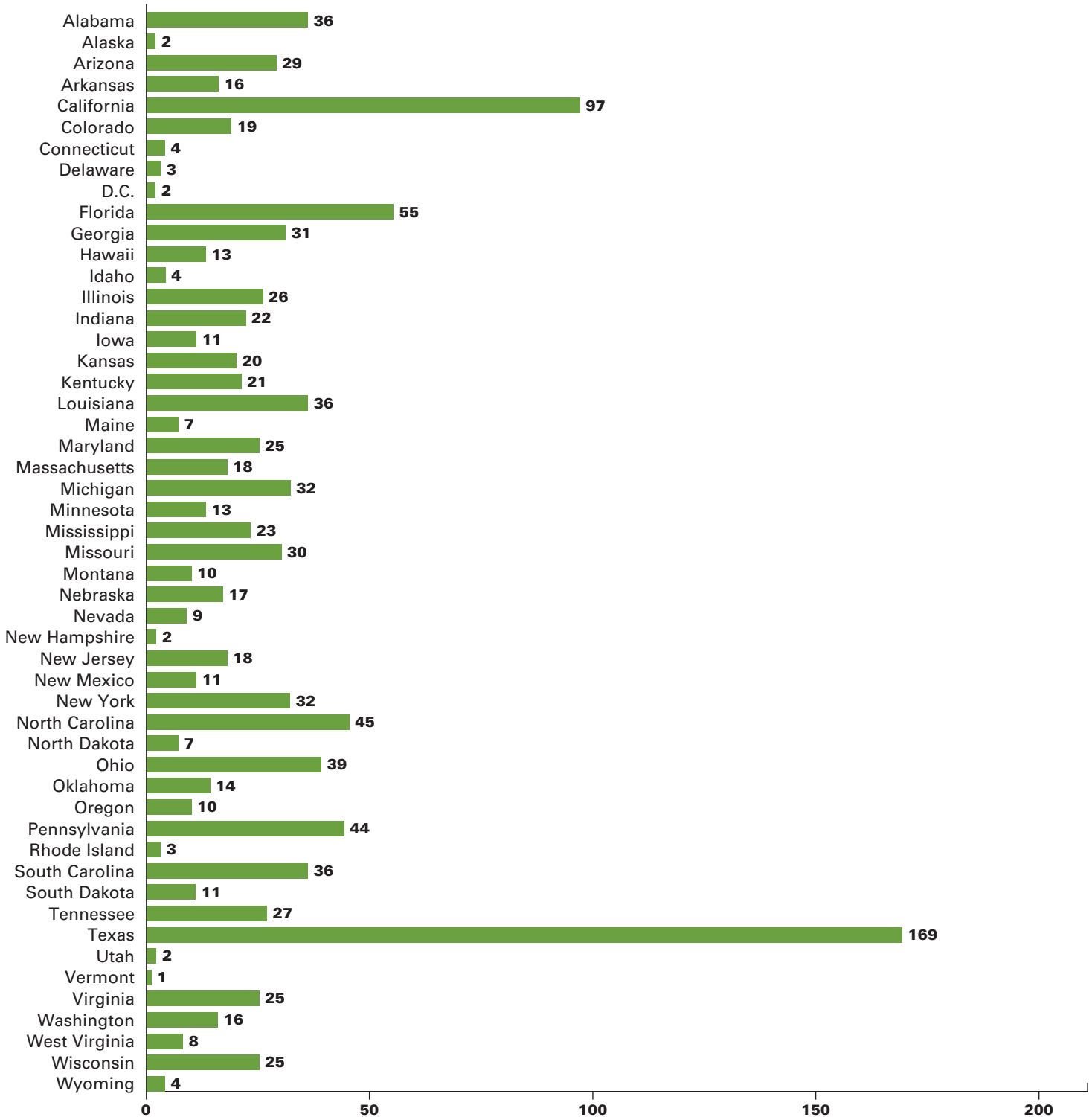
2012 Alcohol-Impaired Driving Fatalities

U.S. TOTAL: 10,322



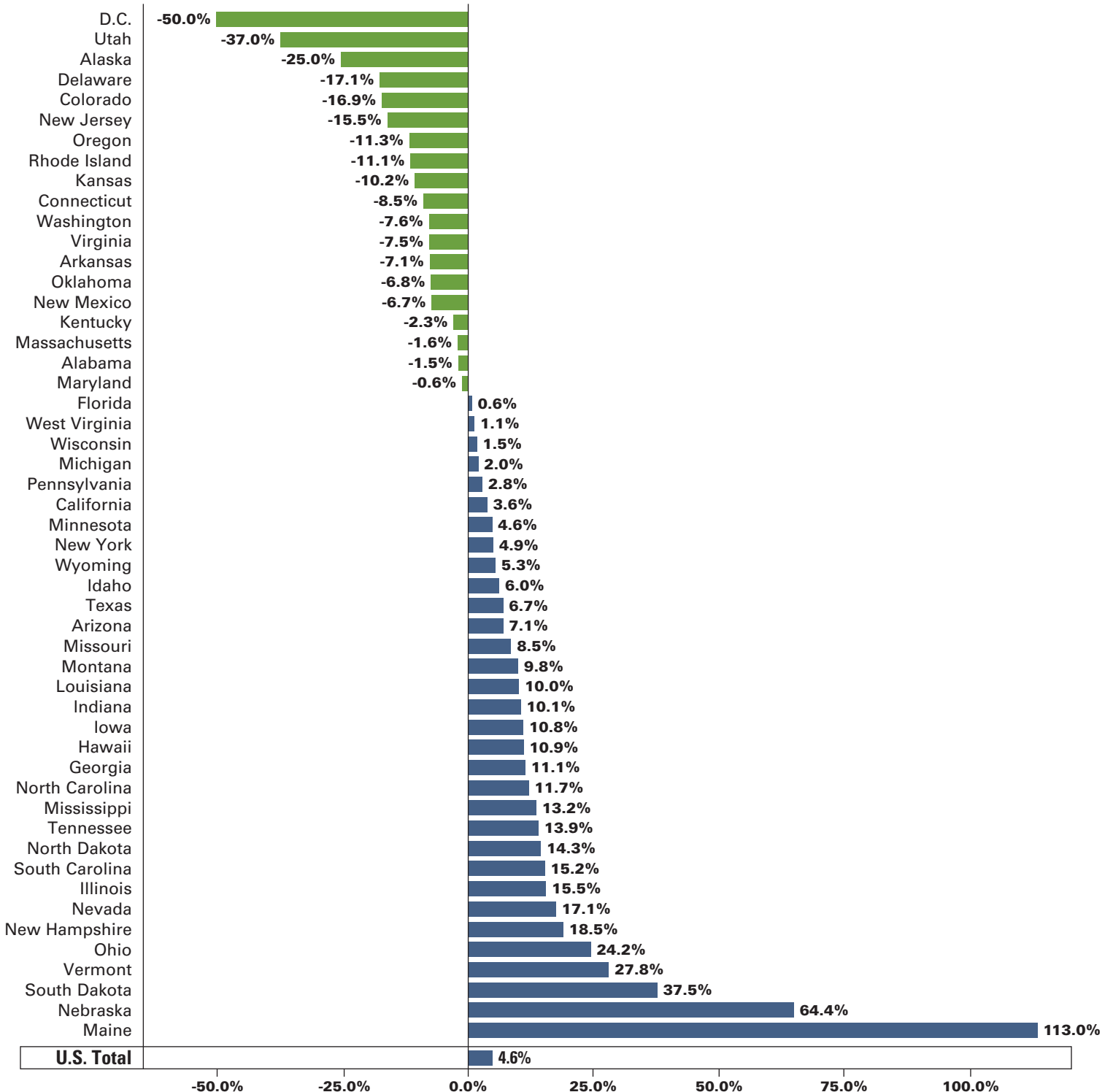
2012 Under 21 Alcohol-Impaired Driving Fatalities

U.S. TOTAL: 1,174



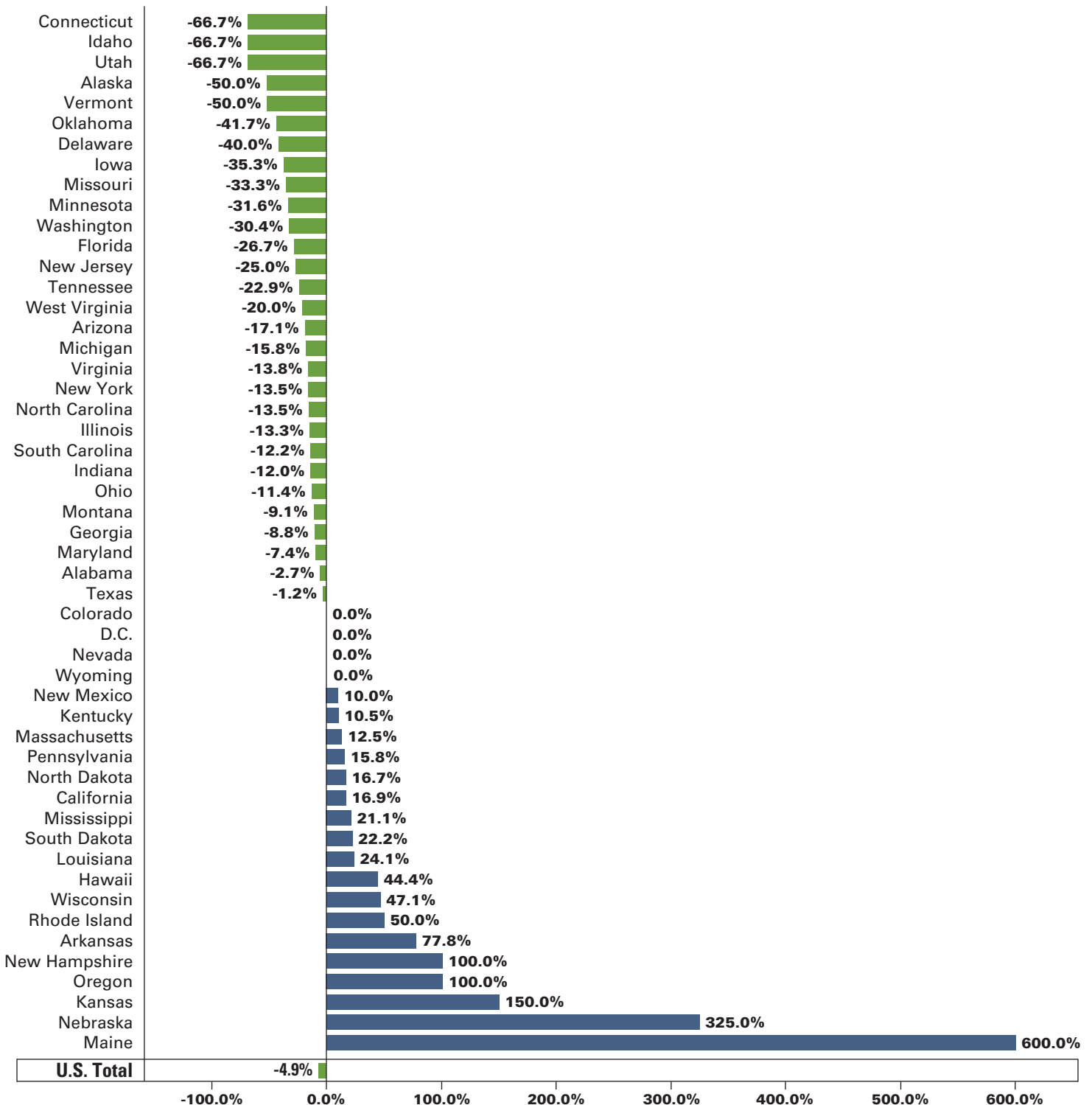
Between 2011 and 2012, alcohol-impaired driving fatalities declined in 18 states and D.C.

PERCENT CHANGE IN ALCOHOL-IMPAIRED DRIVING FATALITIES FROM 2011 TO 2012 BY STATE RANK



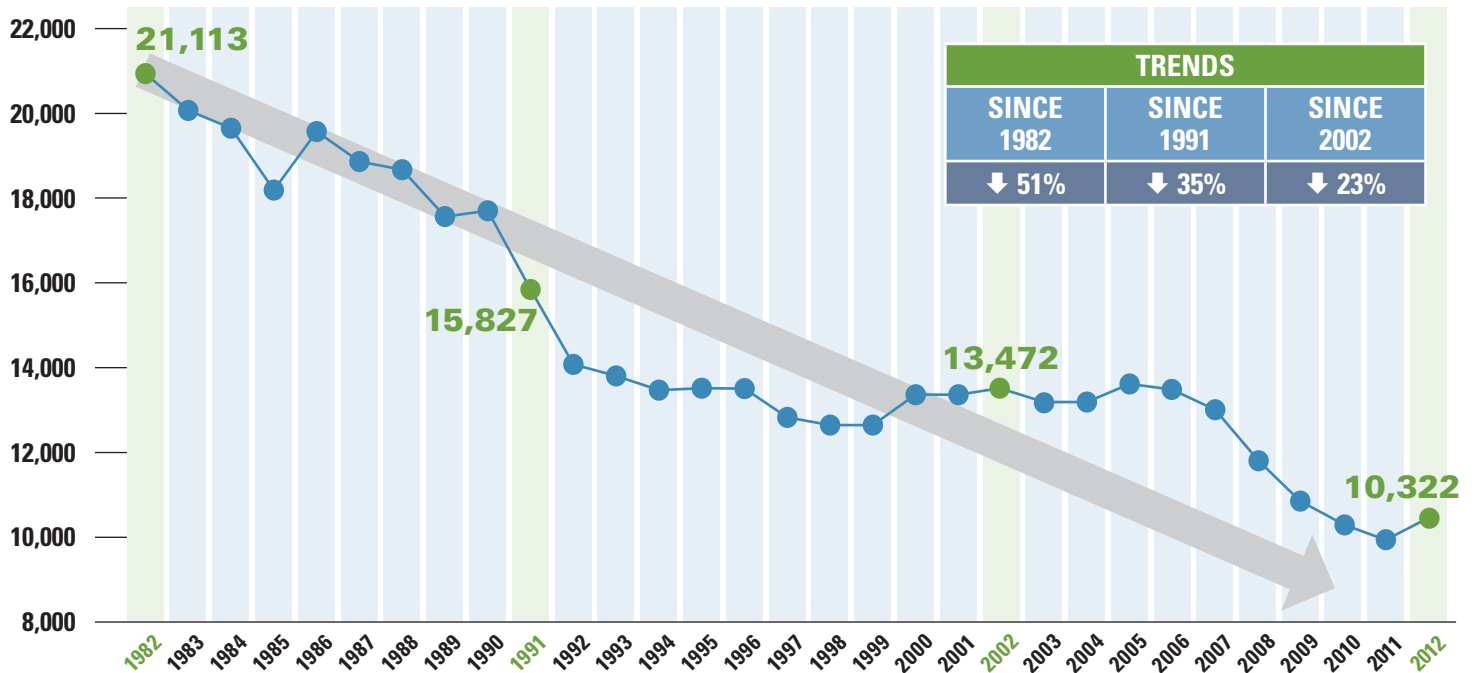
From 2011 to 2012, alcohol-impaired driving fatalities among those under 21 declined nationally and in 29 states.

PERCENT CHANGE IN UNDER 21 ALCOHOL-IMPAIRED DRIVING FATALITIES FROM 2011 TO 2012 BY STATE RANK



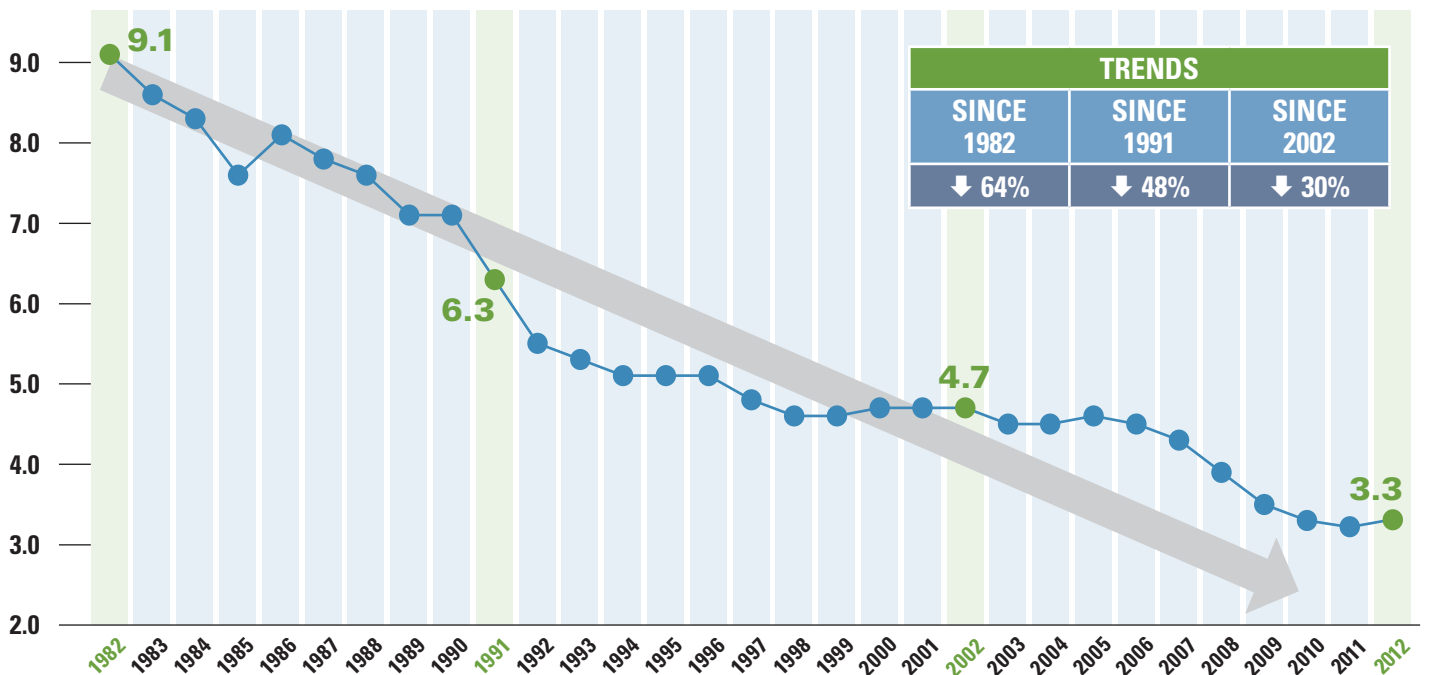
Alcohol-Impaired Driving Fatalities from 1982-2012

ALCOHOL-IMPAIRED DRIVING FATALITIES HAVE DECLINED 51% FROM 1982 TO 2012.



Data Source: NHTSA, FARS, 12/13

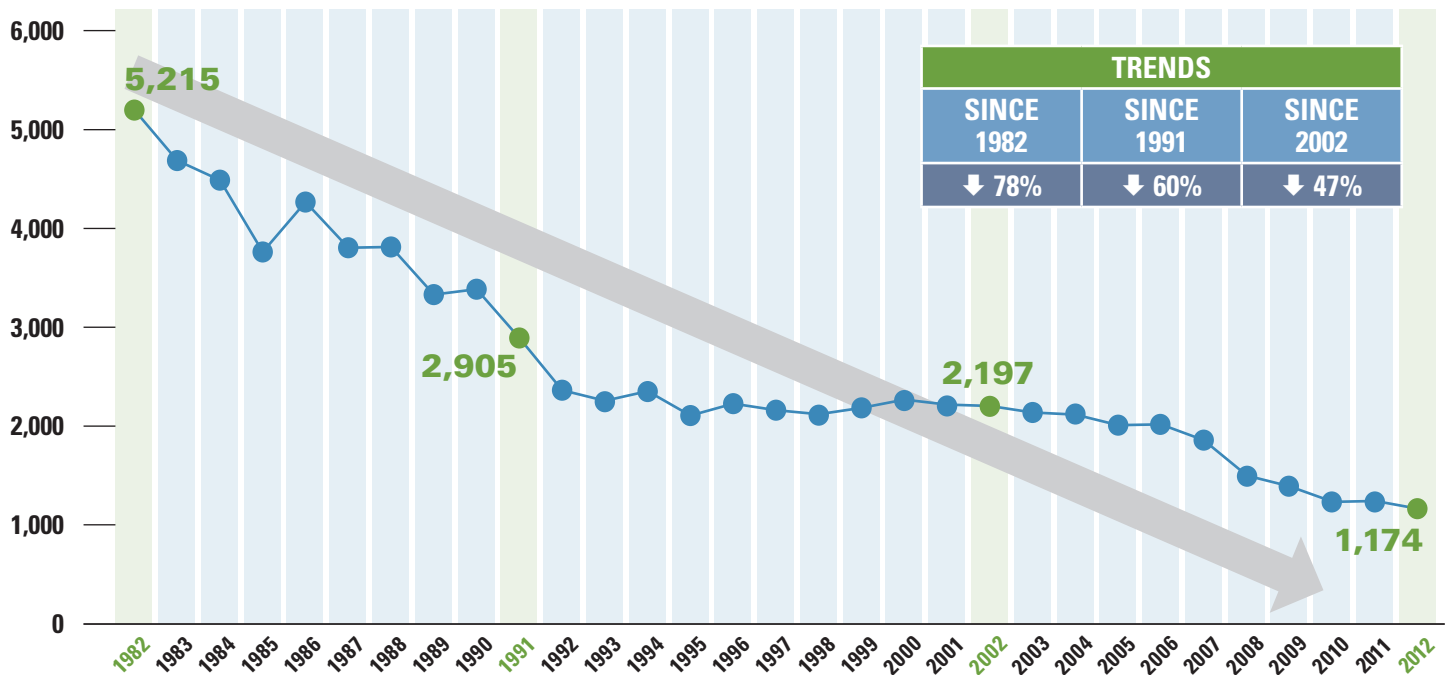
ALCOHOL-IMPAIRED DRIVING FATALITIES PER 100,000 POPULATION HAVE DECLINED 64% SINCE 1982.



Data Source: NHTSA, FARS and U.S. Census Bureau, 12/13

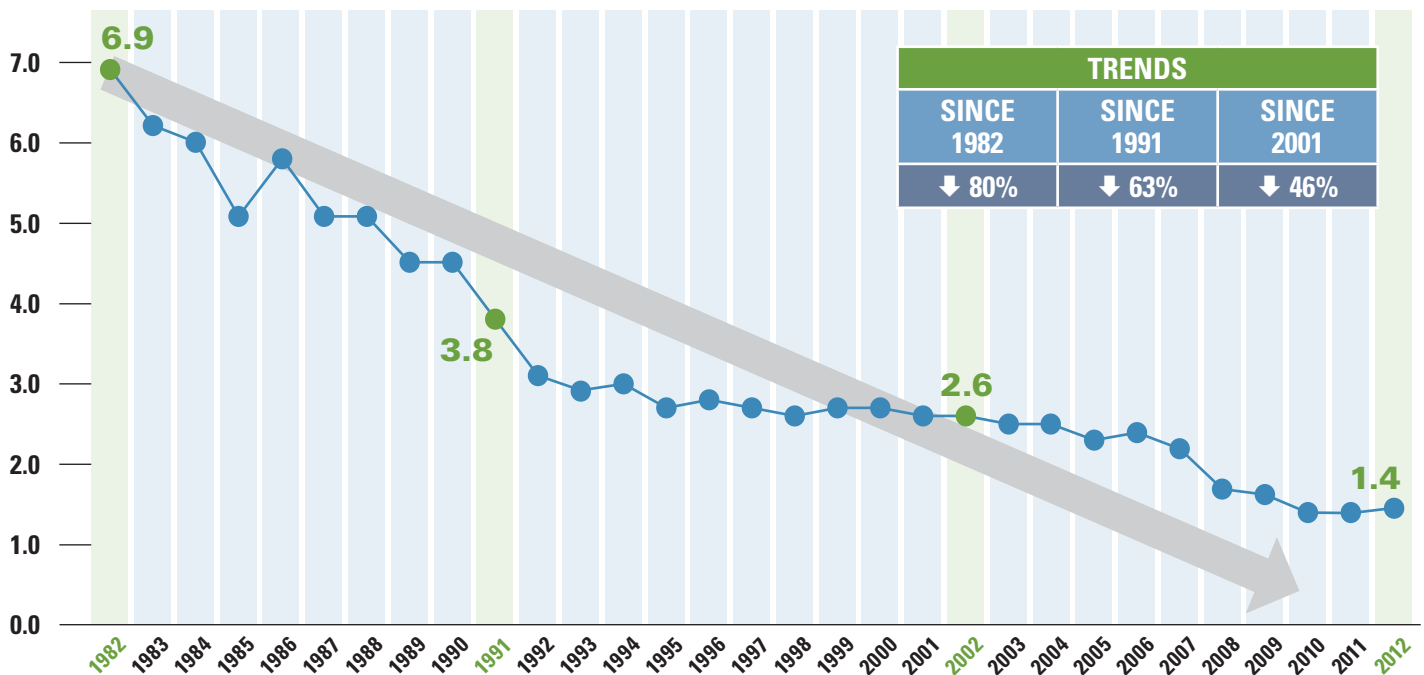
Under 21 Alcohol-Impaired Driving Fatalities from 1982-2012

UNDER 21 ALCOHOL-IMPAIRED DRIVING FATALITIES HAVE DECLINED 78% FROM 1982 TO 2012.



Data Source: NHTSA, FARS, 12/13

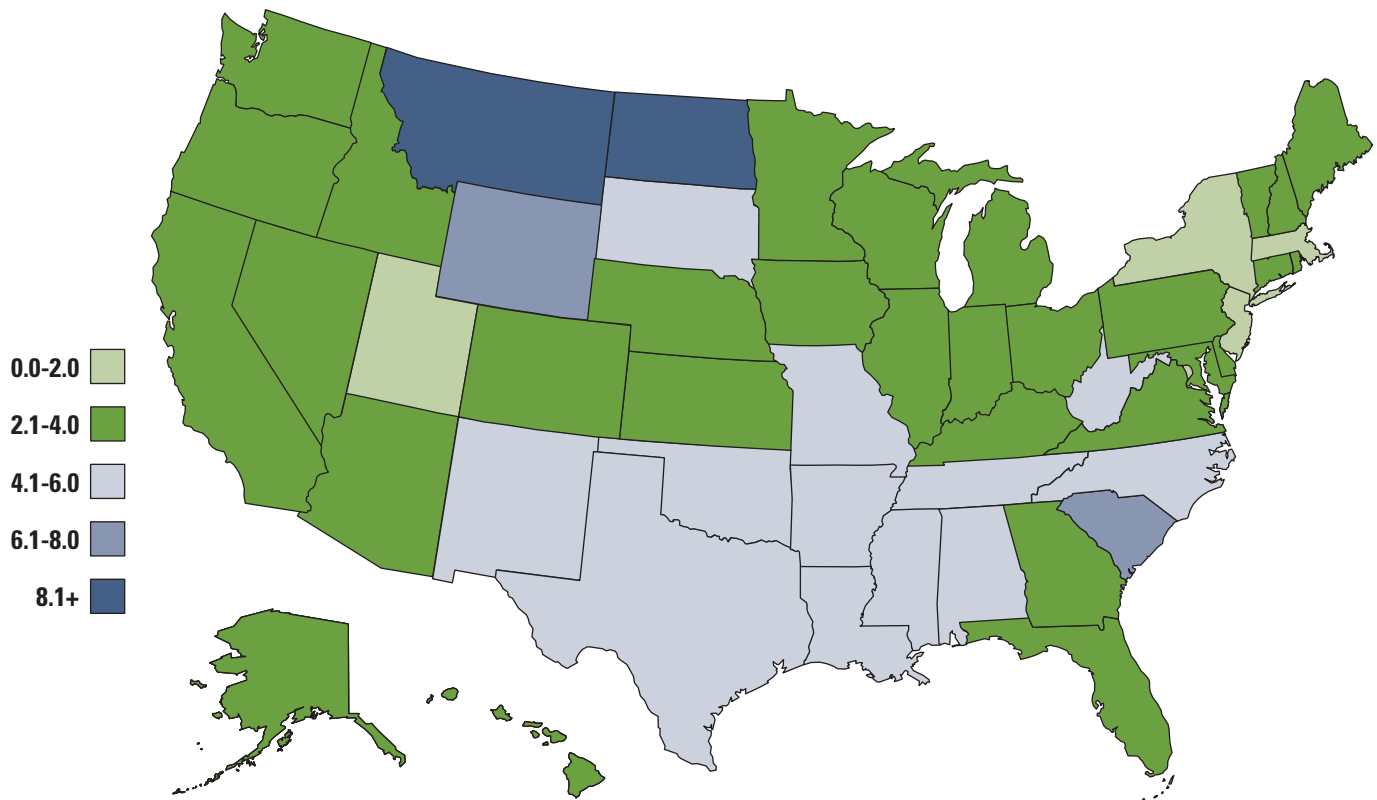
AMONG THOSE UNDER 21, ALCOHOL-IMPAIRED DRIVING FATALITIES PER 100,000 POPULATION DECREASED 80% SINCE 1982.



Data Source: NHTSA, FARS and U.S. Census Bureau, 12/13

In 23 states and D.C., alcohol-impaired driving fatalities per 100,000 population were at or below the national average of 3.3 deaths per 100,000 population.

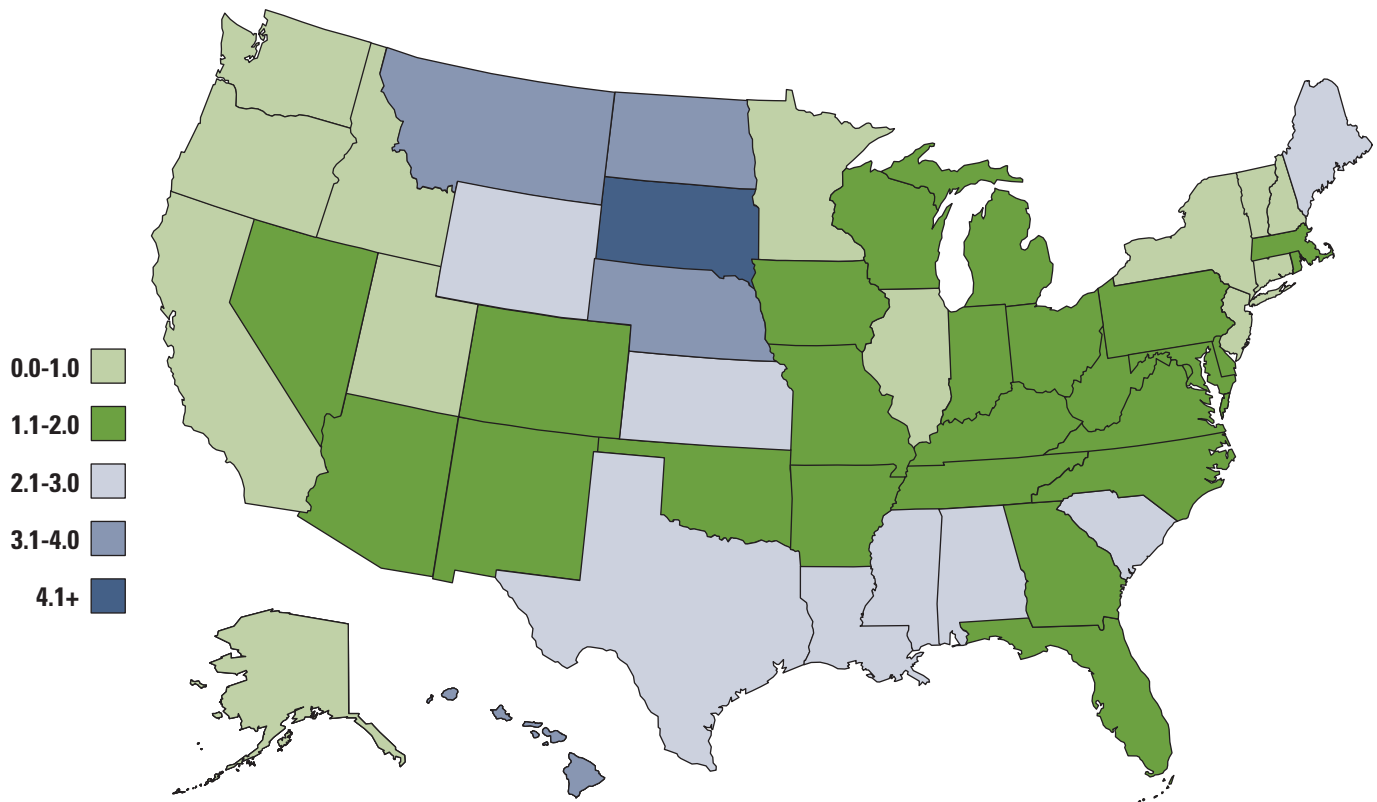
2012 ALCOHOL-IMPAIRED DRIVING FATALITY RATES BY STATE



Alabama	5.3	Illinois	2.5	Montana	9.0	Rhode Island	2.3
Alaska	2.1	Indiana	3.5	Nebraska	4.0	South Carolina	7.6
Arizona	3.5	Iowa	3.0	Nevada	3.0	South Dakota	5.3
Arkansas	4.8	Kansas	3.4	New Hampshire	2.4	Tennessee	4.6
California	2.1	Kentucky	3.8	New Jersey	1.9	Texas	5.0
Colorado	2.6	Louisiana	5.2	New Mexico	4.7	Utah	1.2
Connecticut	2.4	Maine	3.7	New York	1.8	Vermont	3.7
Delaware	3.7	Maryland	2.7	North Carolina	4.1	Virginia	2.6
D.C.	0.6	Massachusetts	1.9	North Dakota	10.3	Washington	2.1
Florida	3.6	Michigan	2.6	Ohio	3.3	West Virginia	5.1
Georgia	3.0	Minnesota	2.1	Oklahoma	5.4	Wisconsin	3.5
Hawaii	3.7	Mississippi	6.0	Oregon	2.2	Wyoming	6.9
Idaho	3.3	Missouri	4.6	Pennsylvania	3.2	U.S. Total	3.3

In 27 states, under 21 alcohol-impaired driving fatalities per 100,000 population were at or below the national average of 1.3 deaths per 100,000 population.

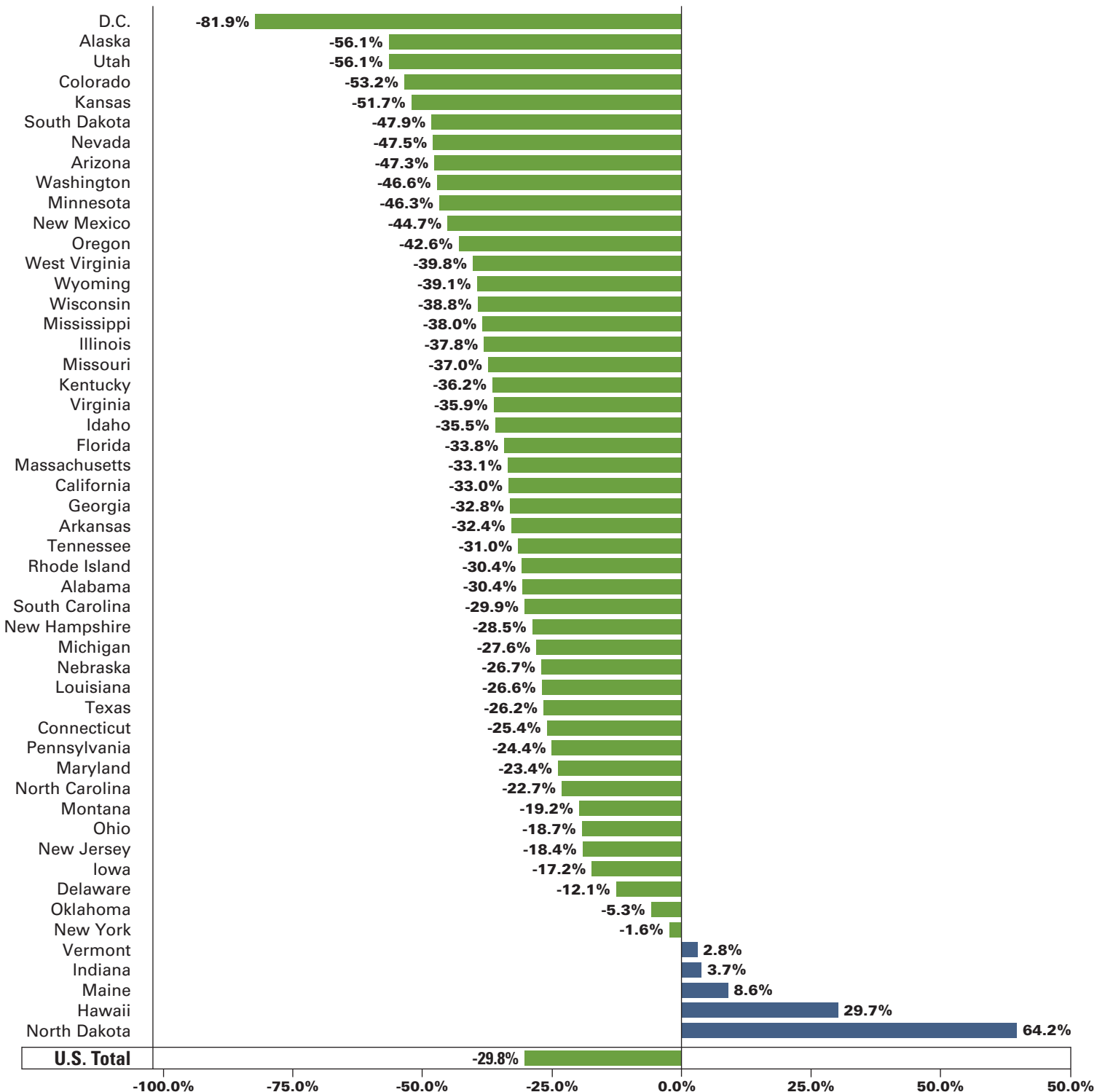
2012 UNDER 21 ALCOHOL-IMPAIRED DRIVING FATALITY RATES BY STATE



Alabama	2.7	Illinois	0.7	Montana	3.8	Rhode Island	1.1
Alaska	0.9	Indiana	1.2	Nebraska	3.1	South Carolina	2.8
Arizona	1.5	Iowa	1.3	Nevada	1.2	South Dakota	4.5
Arkansas	1.9	Kansas	2.3	New Hampshire	0.6	Tennessee	1.5
California	0.9	Kentucky	1.8	New Jersey	0.8	Texas	2.1
Colorado	1.3	Louisiana	2.8	New Mexico	1.8	Utah	0.2
Connecticut	0.4	Maine	2.2	New York	0.6	Vermont	0.6
Delaware	1.2	Maryland	1.6	North Carolina	1.7	Virginia	1.1
D.C.	1.4	Massachusetts	1.1	North Dakota	3.7	Washington	0.9
Florida	1.2	Michigan	1.2	Ohio	1.2	West Virginia	1.8
Georgia	1.1	Minnesota	0.9	Oklahoma	1.3	Wisconsin	1.6
Hawaii	3.7	Mississippi	2.6	Oregon	1.0	Wyoming	2.5
Idaho	0.8	Missouri	1.8	Pennsylvania	1.3	U.S. Total	1.3

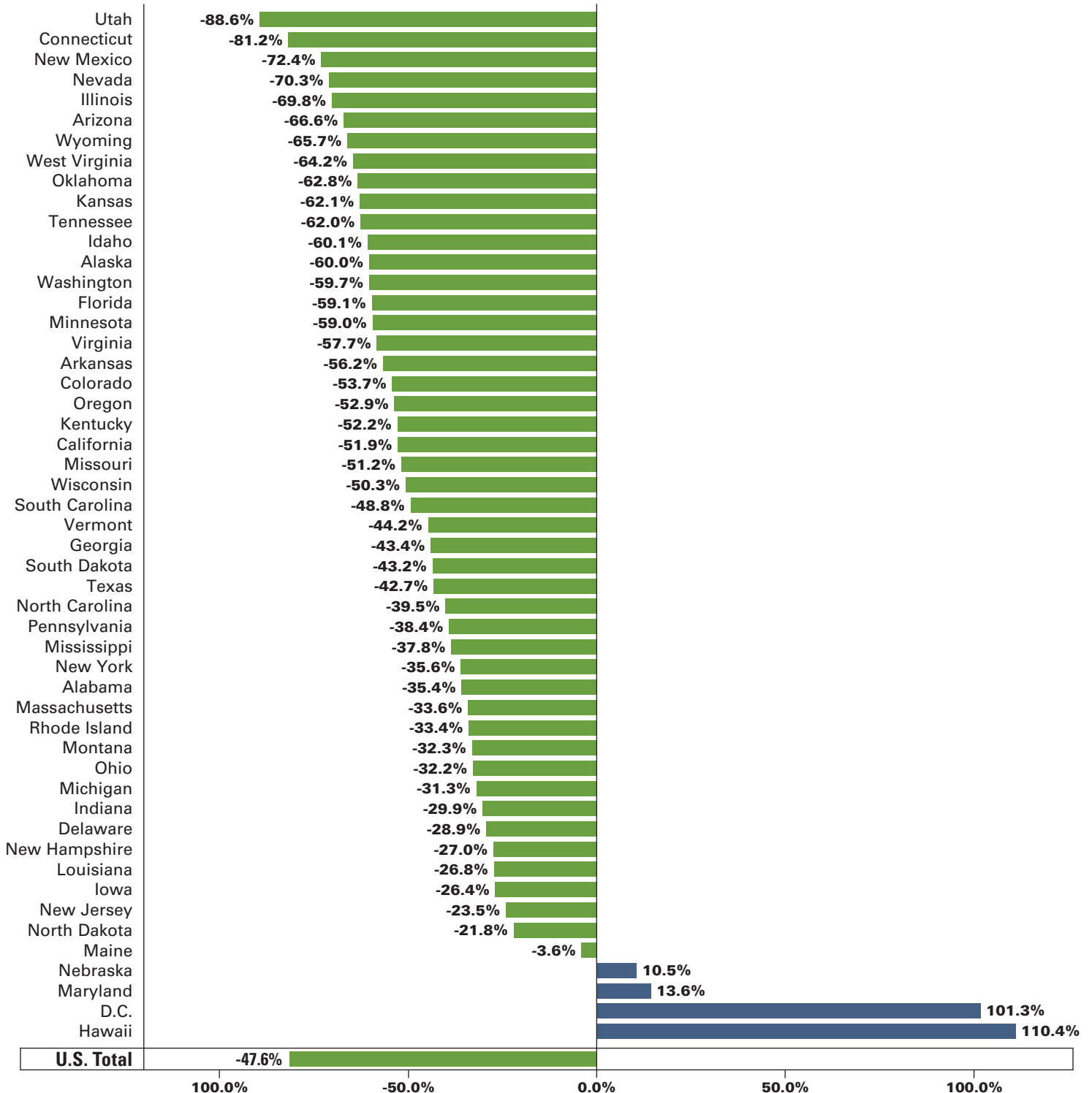
Between 2002 and 2012, drunk driving fatalities per 100,000 population declined nationally and in 45 states and D.C.

PERCENT CHANGE IN ALCOHOL-IMPAIRED DRIVING FATALITY RATES FROM 2002 TO 2012 BY STATE RANK



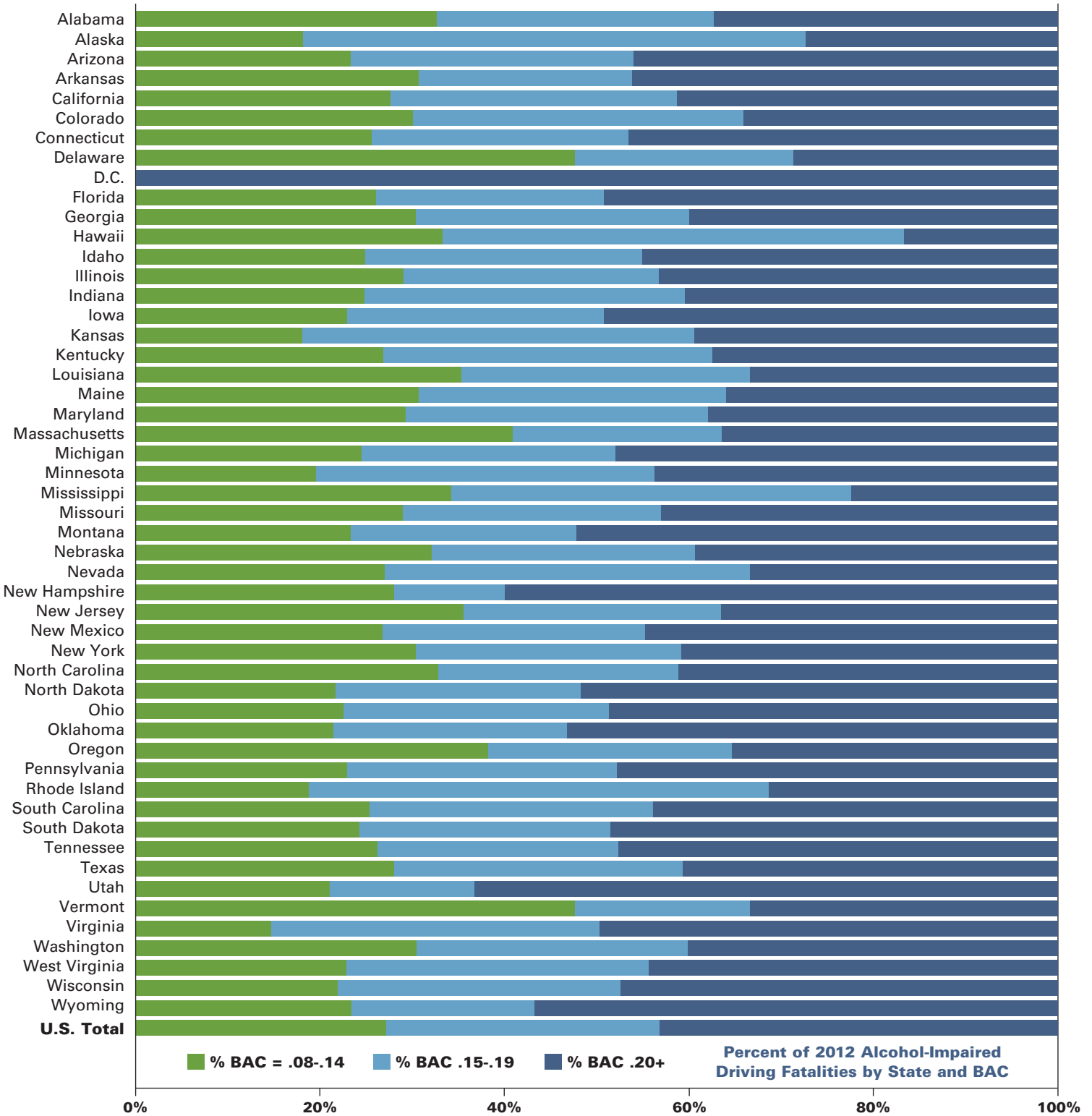
Over the past decade only three states and D.C. did not experience a decline in under 21 drunk driving fatalities per 100,000 population between 2002 and 2012.

PERCENT CHANGE IN UNDER 21 ALCOHOL-IMPAIRED DRIVING FATALITY RATES FROM 2002 TO 2012 BY STATE RANK



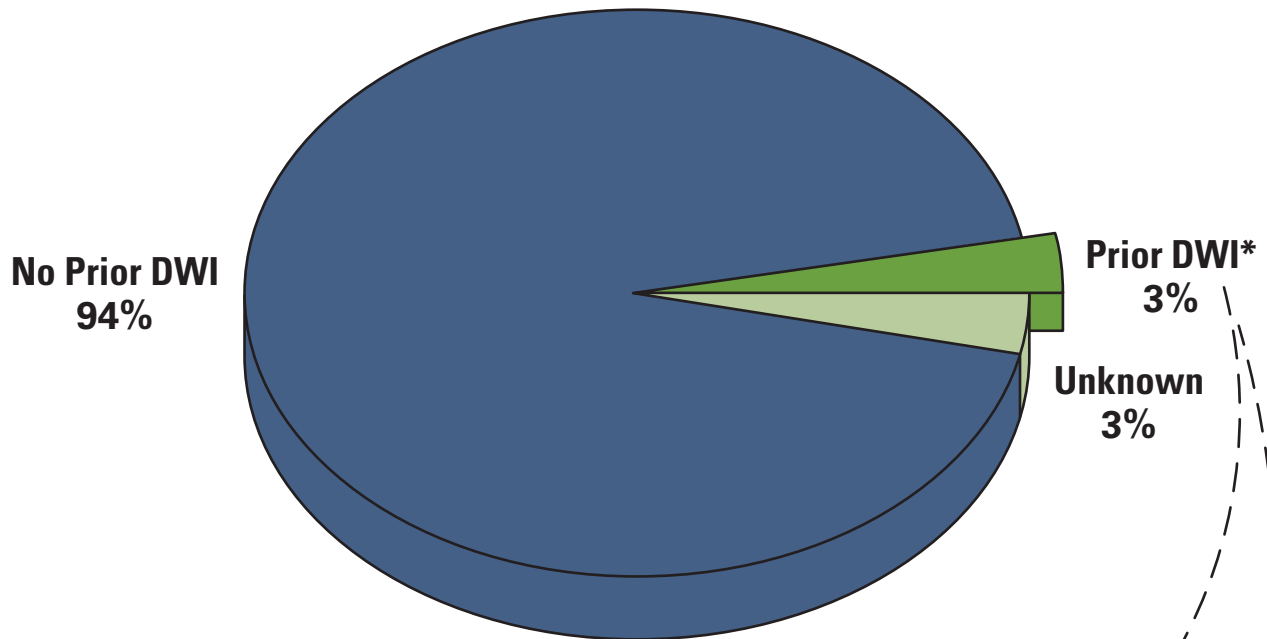
Seven out of ten drivers involved in fatal drunk driving crashes were hardcore drunk drivers in 2012.

PERCENT OF 2012 FATAL DRUNK DRIVING CRASHES BY BAC

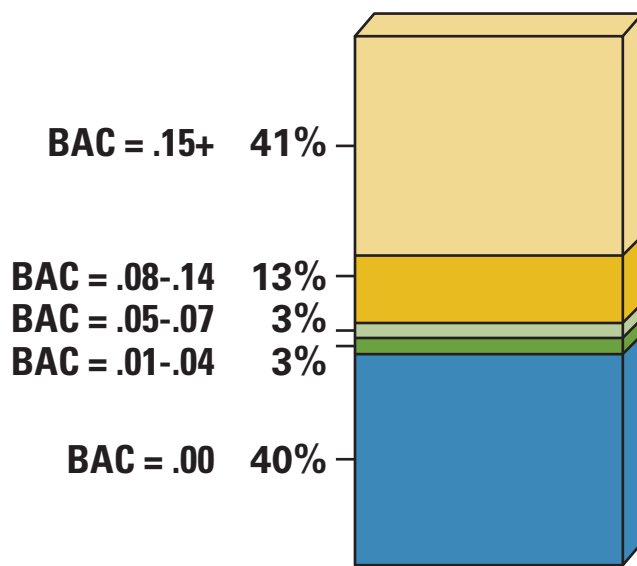


Data Source: NHTSA, FARS ARF of Drivers with Known BAC, 12/13

Four out of ten drivers involved in fatal crashes with a prior DWI* also had a high BAC level at the time of the crash.



Drivers involved in fatal crashes

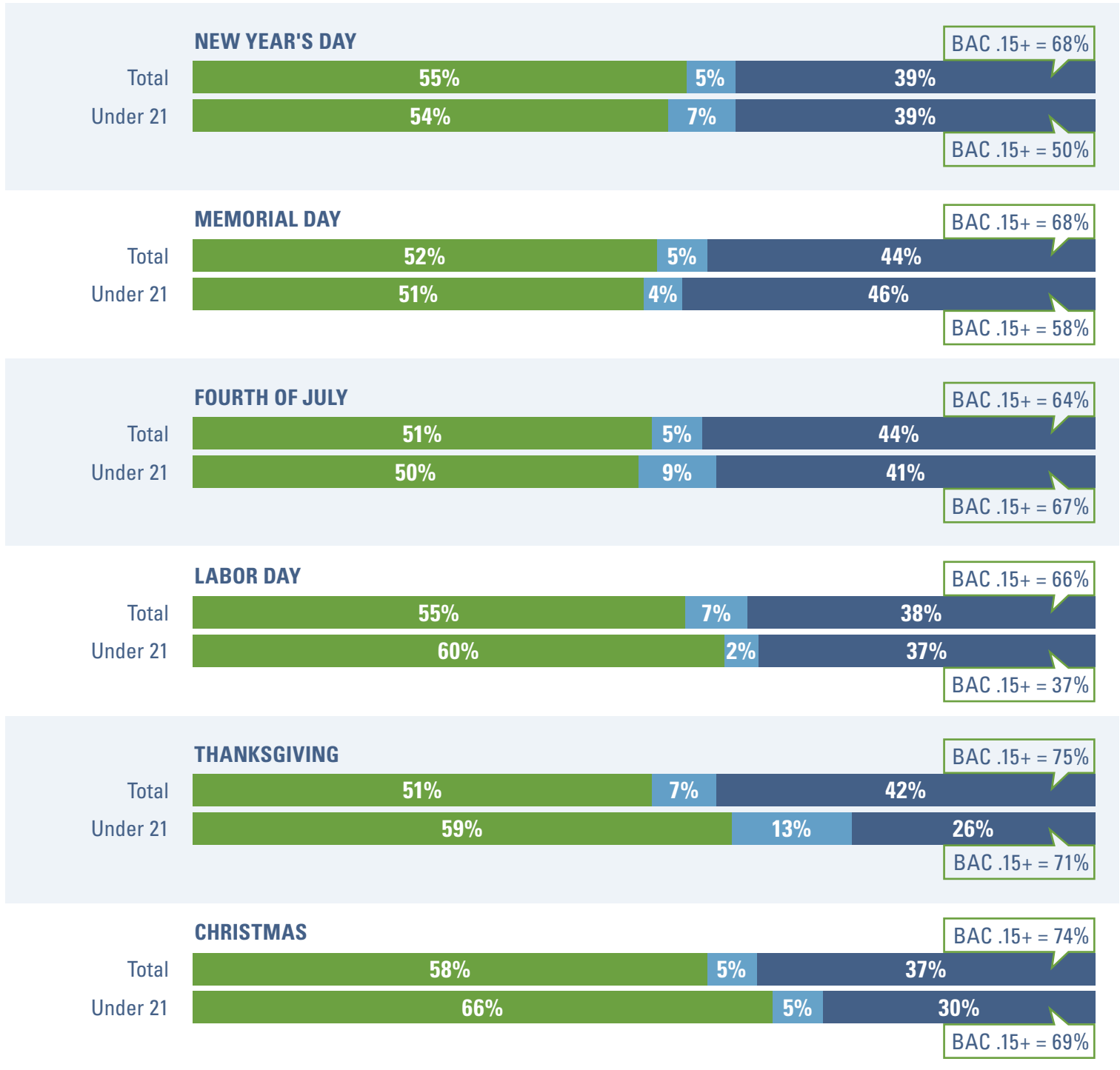


Repeat offenders by BAC level

Data Source: NHTSA, FARS, 12/13
*Prior convictions only for events occurring within 3 years from date of crash.
Total may not equal sum of categories due to rounding.

Drunk driving fatalities accounted for 40% of traffic fatalities during the 2012 holidays and high BAC drivers accounted for 70% of drunk driving fatalities.

PERCENT OF HOLIDAY TRAFFIC FATALITIES BY BAC LEVEL



■ % BAC = .00

■ % BAC .01-.07

■ % BAC .08+

Data Source: NHTSA, FARS, 12/13
 The number of whole days in the holiday period depends on the day on which the legal holiday falls.
 Typically, the period is 6 p.m. the night before until 5:59 a.m. the day after the holiday.
 Total may not equal sum of categories due to rounding.

The information presented in this report is drawn from several databases maintained by government agencies, including the National Center for Statistics and Analysis (NCSA) of NHTSA, which compiles crash data from the Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS), and the U.S. Census Bureau of the U.S. Department of Commerce. This report reflects data from 1982 to the present utilizing NHTSA's multiple imputation method for estimating missing information about BAC levels for persons involved in fatal crashes, thus allowing for improved reporting of alcohol involvement statistics at any BAC level. The U.S. Census Bureau publishes state resident population estimates which were used in this report.



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